

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 6, 2007

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Michael Chertoff  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
United States Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Rice and Secretary Chertoff,

We are writing to strongly urge you to re-examine the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) as it applies to the Hellenic Republic. Greece has been given a series of standards to meet in compliance with the VWP, and all of those standards have been met. Yet, Greece continues to be excluded from the VWP.

Greece and the United States have many things in common. Both countries espouse the fundamental, democratic principles that ancient Greece first provided as a framework for our own Founding Fathers. As Secretary Rice has said, Greece and the United States "share deep values of democracy and freedom."

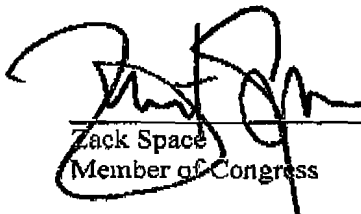
More than just a partner in basic cultural and political practices, Greece has been an ally of the United States in the War on Terror. Greece is a NATO ally with troops in Afghanistan and has provided broad-based assistance in the effort to eradicate domestic terror networks. Greece is also one of only three countries in the world that has been allies with the United States in every major international conflict of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There is no question about Greece's loyalty to and partnership with the United States.

Most importantly, in terms of the VWP, Greece has met the demands set before it. Greece exhibits the less than 3% refusal rate of U.S. non-immigrant visitor visa applications required by the Immigration and Nationality Act. Greece has also incorporated the most advanced documentation technologies in the effort to differentiate honest citizens from terrorists eager to compromise the safety of American citizens; the Greek passports issued prior to January 1 of 2006 – which were of questionable security in the past – are no longer valid. Therefore, Greek nationals will now travel with new, machine-readable passports that possess the necessary biometrics to meet the security standards required by the Immigration and Nationality Act. Despite these extraordinary security improvement efforts, Greece remains the only nation of the original fifteen members of the EU not to benefit from the streamlined access provided by the VWP.

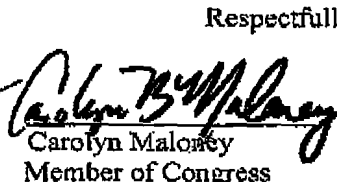
We believe that the continued exclusion of Greece from the VWP is inappropriate, and we respectfully request that you extend the program to include Greek nationals as soon as possible. In fact, this administration has claimed that it wants to move quickly on this issue. In December, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns told Greek officials that the U.S. government wants to "proceed as quickly as possible to work out arrangements to provide Visa Waiver Status."

We believe that the time is now to extend the VWP to Greece, and we urge you to make good on this administration's commitments. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

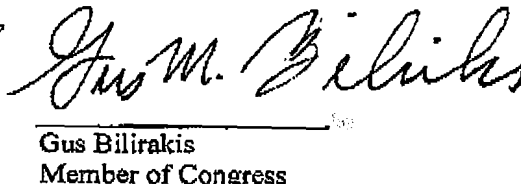
Respectfully,



Jack Space  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Maloney  
Member of Congress



Gus Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

John P. Jagan Shelley Berkeley John H. Kinn  
William J. Stewart Frank Patton Jr. James E. Watson  
Henry E. Brown Robert W. Johnson Dixie F. Davis  
Scott Garrett Jack Ring Barbara Lee  
Verna Lee Holtzman Earl Blumenauer Thomas M. O'Brien  
P. J. P. Vito John Adams B. Schiff
